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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

CASCA, FRED A

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/675,478	Applicant(s) BAGCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner Fred A. Casca	Art Unit 2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13,23-38 and 47-80 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 64-80 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,8-10,13-24,26-32,34-52 and 54-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6,7,11,12,25,33 and 53 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on May 9, 2007. Arguments with reference to the restriction of the claims are considered and persuasive, therefore the restriction of 14-22 and 39-46 are withdrawn. Claims 14-22 and 39-46 are renumbered as 64-72 and 73-80 respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 9, 23-24, 26-30, 32, 34, 35, and 47-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shpak (US 2004/0162037 A1) in view of Vaisanen et al (US 2004/0192222 A1) and further in view of Gorday et al (US 2004/0203836 A1).

Shpak discloses a WLAN (Wireless Local Area Network) interactive device (abstract and figure 1, "access point"), the device comprising:

a classifier (Fig. 3, note that a classifier must exist in order to choose from one of the three radio channels); a plurality of PHY (physical layer) receivers wherein each PHY receiver of the plurality of PHY receivers is communicatively coupled to the classifier (Figs. 1-2, and paragraph 8, "multiple frequency channels"); and wherein:

the device receives a frame of data (figs. 1-3 and paragraph 2, "WLAN", note WLAN receivers receive frame of data as in any digital communication system);

each PHY receiver of the plurality of PHY receivers performs pre- processing

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of the received frame to calculate a confidence level indicating whether the received frame is intended for that PHY receiver (Figs. 2-3 and paragraph 48, "The triplexers shown here, for use in the 2.4 GHz band of IEEE 802.11b/g, are just one example of RF multiplexers that may be used in sharing antennas among multiple WLAN channels ... six- or eight-way multiplexer could be used", note that one of the transceivers (PHY receiver) from a plurality of transceiver is selected (classified) according to its level confidence (capabilities));

each PHY receiver or" the plurality of PHY receivers that calculates a confidence level that is equal to or that corresponds to that PHY receiver asserts a claim to the classifier (Figs. 2-3 and paragraph 48, note the selection of one of the plurality of transceivers according capabilities);

when 2 or more PHY receivers of the plurality of PHY receivers assert claims to the classifier, the classifier arbitrates the claims and designates 1 of the 2 or more PHY receivers as being an intended PHY receiver (Figs. 2-3 and paragraphs 47-50);

when only 1 PHY receiver of the plurality of PHY receivers asserts a claim to the classifier, the classifier designates that 1 PHY receiver as being the intended PHY receiver (Figs. 2-3 and paragraphs 47-50);

the classifier asserts a PHY select signal to the intended PHY receiver; as being the intended PHY receiver processes the received frame (paragraphs 44, 47, 51, note that one of the transceivers has to be selected to process the received frame).

Shpak does not specifically disclose the concept of **exceeding a threshold**, as claimed by the applicant.

In the same field of endeavor, Vaisanen discloses using pre-defined threshold value in selecting a better/appropriate signal (paragraphs 57, 86, 89, 97 and 100, "threshold").

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Shpak, for the purpose of making a better classification/selection.

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The combination of Shpak/Vaisanen does not disclose **asserting a done signal by the intended PHY receiver to the classifier** after the intended PHY receiver finishes processing the received frame, as claimed by applicant.

However, the concept of **asserting a done signal or sending an ACK by an intended PHY receiver** is well known concept and is disclosed by Gorday (paragraphs 42 and 43, "the mobile WLAN base station **acknowledges** receipt of the message and the selected service options"). It would have been obvious to one of the skills in the art at the time of invention to modify the combo of Shpak/Vaisanen as claimed by applicant, for the purpose of maintaining control over the system, keeping tracking of signal being processed, preventing signal loss, and consequently providing an efficient communication system.

Referring to claim 2, the combo of Shpak/Vaisanen/Gorday disclose the device of claim 1, and further disclose the classifier is communicatively coupled to a plurality of higher protocol layers; and one higher protocol layer of the plurality of higher protocol layers is either a MAC (Medium Access Controller) or a higher application layer (Shpak, par. 50).

Referring to claim 9, Shpak/Vaisanen/Gorday disclose the device of claim 1, and further disclose each PHY receiver of the plurality of PHY receivers provides its corresponding confidence level to the classifier; and when 2 or more PHY receivers of the plurality of PHY receivers assert claims to the classifier, the classifier arbitrates the claims by considering the asserted claims and the confidence levels corresponding to each PHY receiver of the plurality of PHY receivers and designates 1 of the PHY receivers as being an intended PHY receiver (please see the rejection of claim 1 above).

Referring to claim 3, the combo of Shpak/Vaisanen/Gorday disclose the device of

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claim 1, and further disclose PHY receiver of the plurality of PHY receivers is a DSSS/CCK (Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum with Complementary Code Keying) PHY receiver; and the DSSS/CCK PHY receiver computes a correlation using the received frame and a predetermined spreading sequence of a DSSS/CCK frame (Shpak, pars: 2 and 39, note that "Bluetooth" uses DSSS/CCK).

Regarding claims 23, 24, 26 claims 23, 24, 26 define a method reciting features analogous to features of device of claims 1, 3, 5 (as rejected above). Thus the combinations of Shpak/Vaisanen/Gorday disclose all elements of claims 23, 24, 26 (please see the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5 above).

Referring to claim 27, the combo of Shpak/Vaisanen/Gorday disclose the device of claim 1, and further disclose before processing the received frame using the intended PHY receiver, performing gain control to scale the received frame to a range that is appropriate for the intended PHY receiver (See the rejection claim 1 above, note that performing gain control is simply qualifying a signal for the proper receiver).

Regarding claims 28, 24, 26 claims 23, 24, 26 define a method reciting features analogous to features of device of claims 1, 3, 5 (as rejected above). Thus the combinations of Shpak/Vaisanen/Gorday disclose all elements of claims 23, 24, 26 (please see the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5 above).

Claims 28, 29, 30, 32, 34, 35, 47-49 are rejected for the same reasons as that of rejection of claims 1-5, 8-10 and 13.

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4. Claims 8, 10, 13 and 36-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shpak (US 2004/0162037 A1) in view of Vaisanen et al (US 20040192222 A1) and further in view of Gorday et al (US 2004/0203836 A1) and further in view of well known prior art (MPEP 2144.03).

Referring to claim 8, the combo of Shpak/Vaisanen/Gorday disclose the device of claim 1.

The combo does not specifically disclose receiving a false claim percentage that is less than a demodulation error rate as claimed by the applicant.

The examiner takes official notice of the fact the measuring false claim percentage and compring to BER is well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of invention to modify the combo as claimed, for the purpose of improving error rates.

Referring to claim 10, the combo of Shpak/Vaisanen/Gorday disclose the device of claim 1.

The combo does not specifically disclose the OFDM PHY receiver includes ED (Energy Detect) functionality that is operable to calculate an energy of the received frame.

The examiner takes official notice of the fact that OFDM receiver including ED (Energy Detect) functionality are well known in the art.

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It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of invention to modify the combo as claimed, for the purpose of providing an improved and efficient communication system.

Referring to claim 13, the combo of Shpak/Vaisanen/Gorday disclose the device of claim 1.

The combo does not specifically disclose all receivers in single IC as claimed.

The examiner takes official notice of the fact that implementing receivers in a single IC is well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of invention to modify the combo as claimed, for the purpose of providing smaller size receivers.

Claims 36-38 are rejected for the same reasons as that of rejection of claims 8, 10 and 13.

5. Claims 4-5, 31, 50-52, 54 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shpak (US 2004/0162037 A1) in view of Vaisanen et al (US 20040192222 A1) and further in view of Gorday et al (US 2004/0203836 A1) and further in view of Rajamani et al (US 20040214539 A1).

Referring to claim 4, the combo of Shpak/Vaisanen/Gorday discloses the device of claim 1.

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The combo of Shpak/Vaisanen/Gorday does not disclose OFDM receivers as claimed by applicant.

In the same field of endeavor, Rajamani discloses OFDM signals and receivers (par: 17).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of invention to modify the combo of Shpak/Vaisanen/Gorday as claimed by the applicant, for the purpose of providing a more efficient communication system by expanding on the modulation techniques.

Referring to claim 5, the combo of Shpak/Vaisanen/Gorday discloses the device of claim 1.

The combo of Shpak/Vaisanen/Gorday does not disclose the receivers to be 802.11a, 802.11b and 802.11g as claimed by applicant.

In the same field of endeavor, Rajamani discloses 802.11a, 802.11b and 802.11g receivers (par: 17).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of invention to modify the combo of Shpak/Vaisanen/Gorday as claimed by the applicant, for the purpose of providing a more efficient communication system by allowing additional signal compatible with common standards to be received.

Claims 31, 50-52, 54, and 55 are rejected for the same reasons as that of rejection of claims 3-5.

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Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 6, 7, 11, 12, 25, 33, and 53 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Previously cancelled claims 14-22 (now renumbered as claims 64-72) and 39-46 (now renumbered as 73-80) are allowed.


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Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred A. Casca whose telephone number is (571) 272-7918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lester Kincaid, can be reached at (571) 272-7922. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER